



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/750,844

01/05/2004

Daiji Sanai

1391.1053

4070

21171 7590 09/21/2007
STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

LEMMA, SAMSON B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2132

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/21/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/750,844

Applicant(s)

SANAI ET AL.

Examiner

Samson B. Lemma

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/05/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 2132

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in reply to application filed on January 05, 2004. Claims **1-14** have been examined.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. **Claims 12-14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the subject matter is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

5. **Claims 12-14** are directed to a program/software/set of instructions. These claims would have established a statutory category of the invention if the program recited in the above claims were stored on an appropriate medium and perform the function recited in the body of the claims when the program is read and executed by the computer/processor. However the above claims are simply programs and thus do not clearly establish a statutory category of the invention. Therefore the claim is a **software/program per se** and does not fall within the statutory classes listed in 35 USC 101. The language of the claims raises a question as to whether the claims are directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a technological art, environment or machine which would result in a practical application producing a concrete, useful,

Art Unit: 2132

and tangible result to form the basis of statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101.

See MPEP § 2106 IV. B. 1(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. **Claims 1-6, 9-10 and 12-13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Smith, Jr.** (hereinafter referred to as **Smith**) (U.S. Patent No. 6, 571,336) (filed on October 4, 2001).

Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. Applicant should consider the entire prior art as applicable as to the limitations of the claims. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner

Art Unit: 2132

8. **As per independent claims 1, 9 and 12 Smith discloses a password input table** [See on figure 1, "generating a unique MasterGrid] **creating method for creating a password input table** [Abstract and figure 8] *(A method for securing passwords, personal identification numbers and identifying patterns utilizes a MasterCode camouflaged within a grid which contains all the characters, symbols or pictograms of which the MasterCode is a subset)* **referred to when inputting a password in a computer** [figure 4, see column 7, lines 45 and column 8, line 2], the method comprising the steps of:

- **displaying on a display a creation table having multiple entry fields each of which is to be an input area for one character** [See at least column 7, lines 14-20, "master grid" or figure 1, ref. Num "20"] *(In step 20 a unique MasterGrid is generated. The generation is done in three sub-steps. In sub-step 22 a grid size is selected. While the examples are for square grids, the grid may be an n by m rectangle or other shape providing it accommodates one instance of each character in the set from which the MasterCode is drawn) ;*

Entering, in the entry field of the creation table, each of characters composing a password to be inputted into the computer through an interactive process [column 7, lines 49-column 8, line 2] *(After a MasterCode and a MasterGrid is generated and permanently stored within internal memory, the SecureWord computer permits entry of a numeric sequence. The numeric sequence is then translated into letters and word list lookup is provided. This lookup then permits the expansion of the letter sequences into words in the word list fitting the aforementioned criteria. These extracted words are then shown on the display allowing the user to make external copies. To decode a SecureWord the user selects the display of the permanently stored MasterGrid on the integral*

Art Unit: 2132

display 94 of the SecureWord computer 90. The user then determines how the MasterCode is embedded into the MasterGrid that is being displayed;)

Creating a password input table by randomly entering possible characters to be used for a password in entry fields of the creation table which have no character inputted therein [column 2, lines 6-14 and column 5, lines 6-10] (On column 2, lines 6-14, the following has been disclosed. "In another embodiment the characters from which a MasterCode can be drawn include numbers, symbols and upper and lower case letters. The identification of the step in the path by numeric sequence creates a SecureNumber. A typical use would be where 81 keyboard symbols, numbers and letters comprise the larger set; a randomly selected 15 to 20 unique characters comprise the MasterCode group for a given individual; each of the assigned passwords of 4 to 8 characters is **randomly generated** to from the MasterCode." and Furthermore on Column 5, lines 6-10, the following has also been disclosed. "The SecureWord system allows passwords to be comprised of totally random sequences. If any symbols are used to represent digits in a password, then the system ignores the symbol in locating words and also **randomly inserts** other symbols into other SecureWords in the list, thus masking the relevance of any specific symbol") ; **and**

outputting the created password input table [Column 7, lines 66-column 8, line 2) (The user then determines how the MasterCode is embedded into the MasterGrid that is being displayed.)

9. **As per claims 2-3 Smith discloses a password input creating table as applied to claims above. Furthermore, Smith discloses the method, wherein the creating step first enters, in the entry fields of the creation table which have no**

Art Unit: 2132

character inputted therein, characters selected from characters left after deleting characters of the entered password characters from possible characters to be used for a password, and then enters, in the remaining entry fields which have no character inputted therein, characters selected from all the possible characters to be used for a password. [figure 1 and figure 2, column 5-6)

10. As per claims 4-6, 10, 13 Smith discloses a password input creating table as applied to claims above. Furthermore, Smith discloses the method, wherein the displaying step displays, as the creation table, a creation table on which a predetermined image is presented. [Column 9, lines 32-41] (*The pattern selection can be any image that is easy for the user to remember and corresponds to the number of characters in the password character set.*)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 7-8 and 11, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Smith, Jr. (hereinafter referred to as **Smith**) (U.S. Patent No. 6, 571,336) (filed on October 4, 2001) in view of **Ruest et al** (hereinafter referred to as **Ruest**)(U.S. Patent. No. 7,133,868) (filed on Sept 7, 2000)**

Art Unit: 2132

13. **As per dependent claims 7-8 and 11, 14 Smith discloses a password input**

table [See on figure 1, "generating a unique MasterGrid] **creating method for creating a password input table** [Abstract and figure 8] *(A method for securing passwords, personal identification numbers and identifying patterns utilizes a MasterCode camouflaged within a grid which contains all the characters, symbols or pictograms of which the MasterCode is a subset)* **referred to when inputting a password in a computer** [figure 4, see column 7, lines 45 and column 8, line 2], the method comprising the steps of:

- **displaying on a display a creation table having multiple entry fields each of which is to be an input area for one character** [See at least column 7, lines 14-20, "master grid" or figure 1, ref. Num "20"] *(In step 20 a unique MasterGrid is generated. The generation is done in three sub-steps. In sub-step 22 a grid size is selected. While the examples are for square grids, the grid may be an n by m rectangle or other shape providing it accommodates one instance of each character in the set from which the MasterCode is drawn) ;*

Entering, in the entry field of the creation table, each of characters composing a password to be inputted into the computer through an interactive process [column 7, lines 49-column 8, line 2] *(After a MasterCode and a MasterGrid is generated and permanently stored within internal memory, the SecureWord computer permits entry of a numeric sequence. The numeric sequence is then translated into letters and word list lookup is provided. This lookup then permits the expansion of the letter sequences into words in the word list fitting the aforementioned criteria. These extracted words are then shown on the display allowing the user to make external copies. To decode a SecureWord the user selects the display of the permanently stored MasterGrid on the integral*

Art Unit: 2132

display 94 of the SecureWord computer 90. The user then determines how the MasterCode is embedded into the MasterGrid that is being displayed;)

Creating a password input table by randomly entering possible characters to be used for a password in entry fields of the creation table which have no character inputted therein [column 2, lines 6-14 and column 5, lines 6-10] (On column 2, lines 6-14, the following has been disclosed. "In another embodiment the characters from which a MasterCode can be drawn include numbers, symbols and upper and lower case letters. The identification of the step in the path by numeric sequence creates a SecureNumber. A typical use would be where 81 keyboard symbols, numbers and letters comprise the larger set; a randomly selected 15 to 20 unique characters comprise the MasterCode group for a given individual; each of the assigned passwords of 4 to 8 characters is **randomly generated** to from the MasterCode." and Furthermore on Column 5, lines 6-10, the following has also been disclosed. "The SecureWord system allows passwords to be comprised of totally random sequences. If any symbols are used to represent digits in a password, then the system ignores the symbol in locating words and also **randomly inserts** other symbols into other SecureWords in the list, thus masking the relevance of any specific symbol") ; **and**

outputting the created password input table [Column 7, lines 66-column 8, line 2) (The user then determines how the MasterCode is embedded into the MasterGrid that is being displayed.)

Smith does not explicitly teach that

In the table a step of setting any field included in the entry fields as entry-inhibited field.

Art Unit: 2132

However, in the same field of endeavor **Ruest** discloses the same feature as a relational database production table, and further providing in said catalog administration function hard coded controls for selectively enabling and inhibiting access by a buyer at said administration browser to fields within said relational database staging table to allow allowing buyer audit control over first predetermined fields in said relational database staging table while restricting buyer access to second predetermined fields within said relational database staging table, said second Predetermined fields including unit price and unit of measure fields; executing validation procedures in said database server for validating format of said flat file catalog and identifying and logging catalog changes, moving content of said flat file catalog in said relational database staging table to said relational database production table responsive to buyer acceptance of said changes as not including chances to fields to which said buyer is inhibited access by said hard coded controls; and said catalog administration function operating said graphical user interface to enable said buyer to update said relational database production table from said relational database staging table while inhibiting access to said relational database staging table by said requester and allowing said requester read access to said relational database production table for reference in preparing a requisition for a catalog item. [See at least claim 1]

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the features of adding a step of setting a field included in the entry fields as the entry-inhibited field, as per teachings **Ruest** into the method taught by **Smith** for the purpose providing versatile administration system for controlling and monitoring access.

Art Unit: 2132

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (See PTO-Form 892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samson B Lemma whose telephone number is 571-272-3806. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am---4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BARRON JR GILBERTO can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-873-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SAMSON LEMMA

S.L.
09/01/2007



GILBERTO BARRON JR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100